

CLAIMS

1. (presently amended) Direct methanol fuel cell apparatus comprising:

a fuel container;

an anode adjacent the fuel container;

a proton exchange membrane adjacent the anode;

a cathode adjacent the proton exchange membrane;

an oxygen supply adjacent the cathode;

the fuel container containing methanol in water at a first concentration;

a cartridge selectively communicatively coupled with the fuel container;

the cartridge containing fluid comprising methanol in water at a second concentration, the second concentration higher than the first concentration,

wherein the selective communicative coupling comprises a pushing pin by a human user, said pin puncturing the cartridge.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second concentration is at least double the first concentration.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the second concentration is at least triple the first concentration.

4-5. (canceled)

6. (presently amended) A method for use with a direct methanol fuel cell, the method comprising the

steps of:

bringing a first solution of methanol in water at a first concentration into contact with an anode, the first solution contained within a container;

bringing oxygen into contact with a cathode, the cathode adjacent a proton exchange membrane and the proton exchange membrane adjacent the anode;

at a later time, bringing a cartridge into communicative coupling with the container, the volume of the container being greater than the volume of the cartridge, the cartridge containing a second solution of methanol in water at a second concentration, the second concentration higher than the first concentration,

wherein the step of bringing the cartridge into communicative coupling with the container comprises a human user pushing a pin, said pin puncturing the cartridge.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the second concentration is at least double the first concentration.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the second concentration is at least triple the first concentration.

9-16. (canceled)

17. (presently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 further comprising a safety lock serving to prevent inadvertent pushing of the pin.

18. (presently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 further characterized in that the pin is movable in relation to the fuel container.

19. (canceled)